

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 JUSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /112 W

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R 280658Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8617

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5442

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, ETRD, AS, US

SUBJ: ANTITRUST: U.S. ACTION AGAINST FOREIGN URANIUM, LEAD
AND ZINC PRODUCERS

REF: A. CANBERRA 3181, B. CANBERRA 5140, C. STATE 098523

1. AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW (AFR) ARTICLE JULY 28, 1976,
FILED IN WASHINGTON BY ROBERT HAUPT REPORTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
HAS INTERVENED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S (DOJ)
ANTITRUST OFFENSIVE AGAINST MINERAL PRODUCER GROUPS AND THE
DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED THE DOJ TO BE COGNIZANT OF FOREIGN
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE CONDUCT OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS
OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN LEAD AND ZINC PRODUCERS (REF A AND C).
AFR REPORTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT-DOJ CONFLICT HAS ARISEN
BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE DEPARTMENT HAS A FOREIGN
POLICY IN COMMODITIES AND THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES U.S. FOR-
EIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS OUTWEIGH ANTITRUST CONCERNS.

2. AFR REPORTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THAT DOJ

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ACTIONS WILL INTERFERE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO

COOPERATE IN COMMODITY PRODUCER-CONSUMER FORUMS. THE AFR SAYS THAT THE DEPARTMENT FEARS THAT THE AGGRESSIVE DOJ ACTIONS WILL UPSET THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE LEAD-ZINC STUDY GROUP SCHEDULED FOR GENEVA IN NOVEMBER.

3. RELATIVE TO THE URANIUM PRODUCERS, THE AFR REPORTS THAT THE ANTITRUST INVESTIGATION HAS PROCEEDED TO THE POINT WHERE THE GRAND JURY IS HEARING EVIDENCE IN WASHINGTON AND IT IS TOO LATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO INTERVENE IN THE DOJ ACTION.

4. COMMENT: TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE AUSTRALIAN RE-ACTION TO DOJ ANTITRUST INVESTIGATION. EMBASSY CANNOT ASSUME THAT THE TRANQUILITY WILL CONTINUE TO PREVAIL AS DOJ ACTIONS PROCEED. END COMMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON ACCURACY AND VALIDITY OF HAUPT'S STORY TO ASSIST IT IN RESPONDING TO QUERIES FROM GOA, MINING INDUSTRY AND/OR PRESS CONCERNING DOJ ACTION.

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Message Attributes

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